

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:OABARTLEY,JR.:JCM

APPROVED BY D:MASAMUELS

EA:RHMILLER

S/S:RWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 222192

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: BAC'S CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OCTOBER 2.

1. BAC CALLED ON DEPSEC ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR PHUONG. SAMUELS (D) AND HARTLEY (EA/VN) ALSO PRESENT. CALL WAS ONE OF A SERIES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY, IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT TO U.S. FOR UNGA SESSION.

2. THE DEPSEC REFERRED TO UNFAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ASSISTANCE LEVELS REMARKING THAT THE SITUATION ON THE HILL IS VERY BAD JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS AND HOPED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON AS MANY CONGRESSMEN AS POSSIBLE. BAC RESPONDED THAT HE HAD APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED WITH MANY CONGRESSMEN INCLUDING A LUNCH WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. BAC ASKED IF, IN VIEW OF THE DEPSEC'S REMARK, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOREIGN AID BILL. DEPSEC REPLIED IMPROVEMENTS COULD NOT

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BE EXPECTED BEFORE THE ELECTIONS ADDING THAT WE MAY NOT

HAVE A FOREIGN AID BILL THIS YEAR.

3. BAC STATED THE GVN'S CONCERN WAS TWO-FOLD IN REGARD TO ASSISTANCE: THE AMOUNT AND THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY. DEPSEC AGREED AND POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD

ALL WORKED VERY HARD TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE LEGISLATIVE ACTION, WITH LESS THAN SATISFACTORY RESULTS TO DATE. BAC MENTIONED THE DOLS 700 MILLION MILITARY ASSISTANCE FIGURE AS BEING QUITE INADEQUATE TO WHICH THE DEPSEC AGREED. BAC ADDED THAT AMMUNITION SHORTAGES HAVE CAUSED HIGHER CASUALTIES AND LOWER MORALE AND THAT IN HIS UPCOMING CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HE WOULD DISCUSS MEANS OF GETTING MAXIMUM SUPPLIES FROM THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED, ADDING THAT A SUPPLEMENTAL WOULD BE NECESSARY. DEPSEC RESPONDED THAT SEEKING A SUPPLEMENTAL IN THE NEXT CONGRESS IS OUR PRESENT INTENTION. BAC REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT SENATOR STENNIS AND CONGRESSMAN HEBERT AGREED TO A DOLS 300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUT BAC WAS UNCERTAIN THAT THEY COULD CARRY THEIR COMMITTEE. MR. INGERSOLL REPLIED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING THIS BUT ADDED THAT MANY CONGRESSMEN HAVE SAID THAT CONSTITUENTS ARE LESS INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH FOREIGN AID THEN EVER BEFORE.

4. BAC REFERRED TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S OCTOBER 1 "IMPORTANT SPEECH" AND SAID THAT THE SPEECH SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIS CASE IN THAT IT STRESSED THE GVN'S ADHERENCE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND ALSO TO LIBERALIZE CENSORSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATIONS. MR. INGERSOLL HOPED THAT MANY CONGRESSMEN WOULD READ THE SPEECH AND ASKED WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION. BAC REPLIED STRONG MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST CORRUPTION EVEN TO THE POINT OF TRYING TWO GENERAL OFFICERS, THE FIRST GENERALS EVER TO BE TRIED FOR CORRUPTION. WITH REGARD TO PROVINCE CHIEFS RECENTLY FIRED BAC SAID THAT NO EVIDENCE OF

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THEIR CORRUPTION WAS AVAILABLE TO THE GVN AND THAT THEIR RELIEF WAS A "POLITICAL DECISION," TAKEN BECAUSE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

5. A DISCUSSION OF OIL PROSPECTS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF BUI DIEM'S RECENT VISIT TO JAKARTA; ONE OF HIS OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN TO DISCUSS DISPUTED AREAS WHERE OIL EXPLORATION MIGHT TAKE PLACE. IN RESPONSE TO MR. INGERSOLL'S

QUERY, BAC SAID THAT THE JAKARTA TALKS PRODUCED VERY LITTLE. THE GVN WISHED TO RAISE THE STATUS OF ITS REPRESENTATION IN JAKARTA BUT MALIK HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE A DECISION SAYING THE DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY SUHARTO AND THAT REPRESENTATION MIGHT BE PERMITTED AT THE CONGEN OR A DELEGATION GENERAL LEVEL. BAC INDICATED THAT HE FELT MALIK WAS LESS WELL DISPOSED

TOWARD GVN THAN WAS THE INDONESIAN MILITARY. BAC ADDED THAT MALIK TOLD BUI DIEM THAT INDONESIA WOULD REMAIN IN THE ICCS AS LONG AS NEEDED.

6. THE DEPSEC THOUGHT THE GVN WAS DOING A BETTER JOB IN PUBLICIZING ITS EFFORTS AND THAT THE VISIT OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELS WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. HE STATED THAT SOME RETURNED STAFFERS HAVE MENTIONED TO HIM HOW MUCH THEY HAD LEARNED AND HOW SURPRISED THEY HAD BEEN AT THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN VIET-NAM COMPARED TO THE PRESS REPORTS. KISSINGER

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